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INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL
MEDICINE

10, PARKS ROAD,
OXFORD

PEMBROKESHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE

YEAR 1949

PICKFORDS (PRINTERS) LTD. PENARTH.

COUNTY OF PEMBROKE, 10, PARKS ROAD,
OXFORD

PEMBROKESHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the work of the School Medical Service for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

Changes in the Medical Staff took place during the year. Dr. M. W. Jenkins left to take a Public Health qualification. The one remaining dentist left on March 31st to take up private practice, thus leaving the County with one part-time dentist. It has not been possible to obtain the services of dental officers who are, no doubt, finding private practice under the National Health Service Act a much more lucrative occupation.

Since July, 1948, the Minister of Health has assumed responsibility for the Specialist Service. In this County the Board took over the responsibility of providing Specialists for Orthopaedic, Ear, Nose and Throat, and Ophthalmic work.

There is still a great lack of accommodation for Special School Education, and many children who should be at Special Schools and Institutions have had to be kept at home.

Immunisation of school children has gone on satisfactorily during the year.

Details of the year's work are set out in the body of the report.

I have pleasure in expressing my appreciation of the Committee's help and consideration at all times.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. MIDDLETON,

School Medical Officer.

GENERAL INFORMATION

STAFF OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, 1949.

Chief School Medical Officer (who is also County Medical Officer):
H. MIDDLETON, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant School Medical Officers (who are also Assistant County
Medical Officers for Maternity and Child Welfare):
M. W. JENKINS, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch.
(Resigned 1/10/49).

District Medical Officers for Western and Eastern Districts acting as
Part-time Assistant School Medical Officers:

DOROTHY REES, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

W. J. Y. SPEEDY, M.B., B.Ch., L.R.C.P. & S., D.P.H.

School Medical Officers:

E. A. G. HILTON, L.D.S., R.C.S. (resigned 31/3/49).

D. H. W. HARDING (Part-time).

Chief School Nurse (who is also County Superintendent of Nurses):
M. A. GIBBS-JONES, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Assistant School Nurses:

E. J. JAMES, S.R.N., S.C.M. (who is also County Health Visitor
and Orthopaedic Nurse):

E. MERRIMAN, S.R.N., S.C.M.

School Nurses: 50 Part-time District Nurses.

Chief Clerk: W. J. AUSTIN.

HEADQUARTERS:

COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 23, HILL STREET,
HAVERFORDWEST.

GENERAL INFORMATION (Continued):

Minor Ailments Clinics:—

School Clinic, 23, Hill Street, Haverfordwest.
 Eastgate House Clinic, Narberth.
 Tabernacle Chapel Vestry, Fishguard.
 David Pettit Nursing Home, Milford Haven.
 Beaufort House, Victoria Street, Tenby.
 School Clinic, Monkton, Pembroke.
 Congregational Chapel Schoolroom, Neyland.

Area of County (Statutory Acres)	...	...	...	393,003
Average Number of Elementary School Pupils on Roll	...	...	...	11,116
Average Number of Secondary School Pupils on Roll	...	...	...	2,871
Number of School Departments in County Primary	...	...	...	140
Number of Secondary Schools	...	...	...	9

PEMBROKESHIRE SOCIETY FOR THE CARE OF CRIPPLES

Chairman: Mrs. SALMOND, O.B.E., "Craig-y-Mor," Saundersfoot.

Hon. Secretary: Miss NANCY THOMAS, J.P., "Craig-y-More,"
 Saundersfoot.

Orthopaedic Clinic:

COUNTY HOSPITAL ANNEXE, HAVERFORDWEST.

TUBERCULOSIS CLINICS.

MEMORIAL CLINIC, COUNTY HOSPITAL ANNEXE,
 HAVERFORDWEST.

DAVID PETTIT NURSING HOME, MILFORD HAVEN.

EASTGATE HOUSE CLINIC, NARBERTH.

COTTAGE HOSPITAL, TENBY.

MEYRICK HOSPITAL, PEMBROKE DOCK.

CHURCH HALL, FISHGUARD.

DR. ELLIOTT'S SURGERY, ST. DAVIDS.

DR. GIBBINS' SURGERY, WHITLAND.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, CARDIGAN.

MEDICAL, DENTAL AND CLEANLINESS INSPECTIONS

Routine Medical Inspection has been carried out as in previous years for the following groups of children:—

Primary Schools:

First Age Group (Entrants).

Second Age Group (Children aged 8-9 years).

Third Age Group (Children aged 12 years and over).

Secondary Schools:

First Age Group (Pupils aged 12 years).

Second Age Group (Pupils aged 15 years).

Third Age Group (Pupils over 16 years).

Special examination of children referred by teachers, nurses or parents, and also re-inspections of children found previously to be defective, have been carried out during the year, in addition to routine inspections referred to above.

Owing to the resignations of Mr. O. C. Jenkins, in November, 1948, and Mr. E. A. G. Hilton, on the 31st March, 1949, the routine work of inspection and treatment of school children has been greatly curtailed.

Normally, children would be given an opportunity of being examined every year; also children noted at medical inspections to be suffering from Oral Sepsis are referred to the School Dentist.

Cleanliness Inspections are undertaken by the School Nurses and if a pupil is found to be infested with vermin, the parent is required to take the necessary action for cleansing. Failing this, the cleansing may be carried out by the Authority after an order has been issued by the School Medical Officer.

MEDICAL INSPECTION—PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The numbers examined were:—

Entrants	...	...	...	1115
Intermediates	...	...	...	548
Leavers	...	...	...	917
Specials	...	...	...	232
Re-Inspections	...	...	...	857
				<hr/>
Total Inspections	...	...	...	3669
				<hr/>

Of the 2,812 children examined at routine and special inspections, 282, or 10.03 per cent. were referred for treatment, and 341, or 12.13 per cent., had defects which required their being kept under observation.

FINDINGS AT MEDICAL INSPECTIONS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS

UNCLEANLINESS.

Regular visits and inspections are paid to the schools by school nurses. Where necessary, the homes are visited and parents advised as to the necessary action for cleansing.

During 1949 a total of 59,408 examinations for cleanliness were carried out by the school nurses. 1,228 children were found with various forms of uncleanness.

MALNUTRITION.

The nutrition of each child is assessed by the Medical Officer and is classified in three groups: good, fair, poor.

Of the 2,580 children examined in the Routine Age Groups, 82 were regarded as being below normal. This indicates that the nutrition of the children in this County remains good.

RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1948.

PRIMARY

Defect or Disease.	Periodic Inspections. No. of Defects.		Special Inspections. No. of Defects.	
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment	Requiring Treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment
Skin	1	6	5	2
Eyes: (a) Vision	58	25	86	22
(b) Squint	9	3	22	5
(c) Other	—	1	1	4
Ears: (a) Hearing	—	2	5	6
(b) Otitis Media	—	4	—	2
(c) Other	—	2	11	7
Nose or Throat	65	75	126	40
Speech	4	5	1	5
Cervical Glands	—	30	3	10
Heart and Circulation	—	38	1	10
Lungs	1	20	—	8
DEVELOPMENT—				
(a) Hernia	1	4	1	1
(b) Other	—	5	1	3
ORTHOPAEDIC—				
(a) Posture	2	12	3	11
(b) Flat Foot	—	12	2	21
(c) Other	1	12	5	11
NERVOUS SYSTEM—				
(a) Epilepsy	—	—	—	—
(b) Other	—	11	1	6
PSYCHOLOGICAL—				
(a) Development	—	1	—	5
(b) Stability	—	—	—	2
Other	1	16	1	16

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT

The treatment of Orthopaedic defects is carried out under the supervision of Mr. Rocyn Jones, F.R.C.S., through the National Health Service.

The Scheme provides for the examination and treatment of all children from birth up to 16 years of age and for pupils at Secondary Schools, up to the time of leaving school.

Cases are referred for treatment by General Medical Practitioners, Hospital Specialists, Medical Officers at School Inspections, Health Visitors and District Nurses.

During the year 201 new cases were added to the list, which numbers 450. 106 cases were removed from the Register, 47 were discharged as cured, 35 were transferred to their own doctor, etc., and others left the County.

The Orthopaedic Surgeon held Clinics in $9\frac{1}{2}$ days at the County Hospital, Haverfordwest. A total of 244 examinations were carried out, of which 89 were new cases.

Physiotherapists provided under the Regional Hospital Board held Clinics at:—

1. The County Hospital, Haverfordwest.
2. Clinic, High Street, Fishguard.
3. School Clinic, Tenby.
4. School Clinic, Pembroke Dock.

There were three cases in the Prince of Wales' Hospital, Cardiff, at the beginning of the year. Nine were admitted during the year, at the end of the year one remained in Hospital. The 10 children treated during the year occupied beds for a total of 717 days. 16 cases were waiting for admission to Hospitals at the end of the year.

One case of Poliomyelitis occurred in July—this child of eight years made a complete recovery. Two cases occurred in November from the same area, and were still at the Isolation Hospital at the end of the year.

In addition to this clinical work, 1,100 re-visits were made by the After-Care Orthopaedic Nurse. This work includes the demonstration of remedial exercises as well as the following up and supervising of treatment advised by the Orthopaedic Surgeon. Many of the cases

should receive hospital treatment but this has not been possible, due to the lack of beds.

1.—No. OF CASES ON REGISTER.

Number on the Register at 1/1/49	...	...	445
Number of new cases during 1949	...	...	201
Number of cases removed from Register during 1949	...	...	106
Number on Register at 31/12/49	...	...	540

2.—CLASSIFICATION OF DEFECTS.

The defects of the 540 children on the Register are as follows:—

Flat Feet and Valgus Ankles	...	..	250
Claw Feet	...	...	6
Hammer Toes	...	...	16
Knock Knees	...	...	16
Hallux Valgus	...	...	5
Bow Legs	...	...	12
Congenital Deformities:			12
Hips	...	...	26
Feet	...	...	2
Legs	...	...	1
Hand	...	...	2
Arms	...	...	...
Others:			24
Spastic Paralysis	...	...	29
Infantile Paralysis	...	...	1
Muscular dystrophy or atrophy	...	...	4
Erbs Paralysis	...	...	16
Spinal Deformities	...	...	10
Round Shoulders	...	...	8
Hip Disease (not Congenital)	...	...	7
Wry Neck	...	...	2
Chest Deformities	...	...	2
Spinal bifida	...	...	4
Osteomyelitis	...	...	1
Amputations	...	...	15
Old Injuries	...	...	41
Posture	...	...	1
Rickets	...	...	1
Derma Tomyositis	...	...	1
Fragilitas Ossium	...	...	22
Miscellaneous	...	...	2
Plastic Surgery	...	...	...

3.—HOSPITAL TREATMENT:

(a) Number of Children in Hospital on 1/1/49	3
(b) Number of Children admitted during 1949	9
(c) Number of Children discharged during 1949	11
(d) Number of Children in Hospital 31/12/49	1

In addition, five operations, 35 manipulations were carried out by the Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Clinics held at the County Hospital, Haverfordwest.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

Children who are handicapped in any way are brought to the notice of the School Medical Officer by Health Visitors, school attendance department, teachers and general medical practitioners. Arrangements are made by the School Medical Officer to have the children medically examined and the cause of the handicap determined.

Handicapped pupils who require special educational treatment are, in the majority of cases, recommended for admission to Residential or Day Special Schools. It is almost impossible, however, to find vacancies in these schools owing to the very limited accommodation available, with the result that many children either remain at home or continue to attend ordinary schools.

DELICATE AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

The question of establishing two residential schools for delicate and physically handicapped children, one in the North and the other in the South of the County, is still under consideration.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Defect.		At Public Elementary School.	At Certified Special School.	At Home.	Total.
Blind ... ..	...	1	4	1	6
Partially Blind ... ..	...	4	1	—	5
Deaf ... ..	...	4	4	—	8
Partially Deaf ... ..	...	2	—	—	2
Delicate ... ..	...	3	—	3	6
Diabetic ... ..	...	3	—	—	3
Educationally Sub-Normal ...	...	244	—	7	251
Epileptic ... ..	...	6	—	6	12
Maladjusted ... ..	...	3	—	—	3
Speech Defects ... ..	...	55	—	—	55
Physically Handicapped ...	...	43	3	5	51
Multiple Disabilities ...	...	2	—	6	8

TREATMENT

Provision of free hospital treatment is now the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Boards, while full domiciliary treatment is available through the general practitioners' service.

OPHTHALMIC TREATMENT.

Arrangements for refraction and provision of spectacles were undertaken as part of the supplementary Ophthalmic Services, specialists service being provided by the Regional Hospital Board.

VISUAL DEFECTS.

131 cases were submitted for refraction and attended eye clinics held at convenient centres throughout the County, and 4 were referred to the Ophthalmic Specialist for special examination and treatment if necessary.

EAR, NOSE, AND THROAT DEFECTS.

Children found at Medical Inspections to have defects of the ear, nose and throat, are referred for examination by a Consultant. Cases recommended by him for operative treatment are placed on the Waiting List at the Hospital, and subsequent arrangements for their admission made by the Hospital Authorities.

160 children received operative treatment for unhealthy Tonsils and Adenoids, and 19 were recommended other forms of treatment.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Children suspected of suffering from Tuberculosis in any form were referred to the Area Chest Physician for special examination.

During 1949, 386 school children were examined. Of these, 5 were found to be suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 2 from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 225 were referred for re-examination later.

Five children were admitted to Sanatoria or Hospitals.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The general incidence of infectious diseases has remained low throughout the County. It was considered necessary to close three schools on account of Measles, two for Whooping Cough, and two for Scarlet Fever.

Influenza was prevalent during the first three months of the year, and to prevent the spread of infection 28 schools were closed.

No cases of Diphtheria were reported during the year.

Immunisation against Diphtheria has been continued under the direction of the District Medical Officers acting in co-operation with the County Health Department.

Parents are encouraged to have their infants completely immunised between the age of 9 and 12 months. Reinforcing injections are given later.

1,084 children were immunised during the year, and reinforcing injections were given to 1,213 children.

These figures show an increase in the amount of work carried out during the previous year.

PROVISION OF SCHOOL MEALS AND MILK.

The provision of meals includes both the provision of milk and mid-day meals.

All the Primary and Secondary Schools in the County are now served by Canteens and are provided with meals up to their requirements.

The daily average number of children having meals at school—8,233.

Average number of children having milk at school—8,742.

FOLLOWING UP.

Following up of children with defects or disease is undertaken by the School Nurses and by re-examinations in the Schools and School Clinics by the Medical Staff.

Summary of Work undertaken by School Nurses.

Attendance at Inspections ...	...	...	...	120
Visits to Schools re Cleanliness ...	...	...	...	987
Following-up Visits to Homes re Cleanliness ...	...	...	...	522
Following-up Visits to Homes re Physical Defects ...	...	...	...	133
Attendances at Dental Clinics ...	...	...	...	16
Attendances at Minor Ailments Clinics...	...	...	...	1018

In addition, to visits made to homes by the Nurses, 857 medical re-inspections were carried out.

MINOR AILMENTS.

Defect.				Treated by Nurse.	Treated by Parents under supervision of Nurse	Total.	No. of cases cured.
Ringworm—Head	...	...	...	5	—	5	2
Ringworm—Body	...	...	...	12	10	22	9
Scabies	...	...	...	16	7	23	9
Impetigo	...	...	...	128	13	141	117
Minor Injuries	...	...	...	385	73	458	313
Other Skin Diseases	...	...	...	62	14	76	63
Ear Diseases	...	...	..	73	2	75	55
External Eye Disease	...	...	...	55	6	61	43
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	315	40	355	311
TOTAL				1051	165	1216	922

UNCLEANLINESS.

Number of visits to Schools.	948	Total number of Children examined at Schools.	59,408	Number of individual children found unclean	1,228	Number of children cleansed.		Number of Children found with the following defects.						Dirty and Unsatisfactory Clothing.	27
				By Parents under supervision of Nurse	653	By Nurse.		Head.			Body.				
								Dirty.	Pediculi.	Nits.	Dirty.	Pediculi.	Fleabitten.		
								52	131	995	25	4	3		

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

1,170 pupils were examined at Routine Inspections. Of these, 103, or 8.8, were referred for treatment, and 86, or 7.35, for observation. Seven pupils were also specially examined, and of these, five were referred for treatment and two for observation.

DEFECTIVE VISION.

54 were referred for treatment and 15 for observation.

MALNUTRITION.

55 cases of malnutrition were found amongst Secondary School pupils examined.

NOSE AND THROAT DEFECTS.

32 cases were referred for treatment, and 25 for further observation.

HEART AND CIRCULATION.

14 pupils were found with functional heart defects.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Four cases were referred to the Tuberculosis Physician.

DEFORMITIES.

17 pupils were referred for treatment and 15 for observation. Most of these cases were pupils suffering from minor postural defects and flat feet.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE.

During the year, 1,474 children were inspected; 764 were referred for treatment, and 597 were actually treated.

Summary of Treatment.

Number of Fillings inserted in permanent teeth	...	28
Number of Fillings inserted in temporary teeth	...	53
Number of Permanent Teeth extracted	...	43
Number of Temporary Teeth extracted	...	352
Other operations—Permanent teeth	...	338
Temporary teeth	...	93

PRIMARY.

TABLE I.

**MEDICAL INSPECTION OF CHILDREN ATTENDING PUBLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOLS.****A.—Routine Inspections.**

Number of Inspections in the prescribed groups:—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	1115
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	548
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	917
					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	2580
					<hr/>

B.—Other Inspections.

Number of Special Inspections	...	...	...	...	232
Number of Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	857
					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	1089
					<hr/>

TABLE II.

Classification of the Nutrition of Children inspected during the year
in the Routine Age Groups.

Age Groups.	No. of Children inspected	A. Good.		B. Fair.		C. Poor.	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	1115	172	15.43	905	81.17	38	3.4
Second Age Group	548	57	10.4	478	87.23	13	2.37
Third Age Group	917	114	12.43	772	84.19	31	3.38
Totals	2580	343	13.29	2155	83.53	82	3.18

TABLE III.
TREATMENT TABLES.

Group I.—MINOR AILMENTS (excluding Uncleanliness).			
Total number of defects treated or under treatment during			
the year under the Authority's Scheme	...	...	221
Group II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT.			

Disease or Defect. (1)	No. of Defects dealt with. Under the Authority's Scheme. (2)
Errors of Refraction (including squint) ...	115
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I.) ...	4
Total ...	119
No. of Children for whom Spectacles were:—	
(a) Prescribed ...	83
(b) Obtained ...	83

Group III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

	Number of Defects.	
Operative Treatment.	Other Forms of Treatment.	Total
160	23	176

TABLE IV.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

1. Number of Children inspected	...	...	...	1474
2. Number of Children found to require treatment	...	...	...	764
3. Number actually treated	...	...	...	597
4. Attendances made by children for treatment...	...	...	...	819
5. Half-days devoted to:—				
Inspection	...	...	...	23
Treatment	...	...	...	90
6. Fillings:—				
Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	53
Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	28
Total	...	...	...	81

7. Extractions:—					
Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	352
Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	43
					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	395
					<hr/>
8. Administration of General Anaesthetics	...	...	...	...	3
9. Other Operations:—					
Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	93
Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	338
					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	431
					<hr/>

TABLE V.

UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

1. Average number of visits per school made during the year by School Nurses	...	...	...	7
2. Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	...	...	...	59,408
3. Number of individual children found unclean	...	...	...	1,228
4. Number of children cleansed under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921	...	...	...	836
5. Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken:				
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	...	...	...	—
(b) Under the School Attendance Bye-laws	...	...	...	—

SECONDARY.

MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS.

Number of Code Inspections	...	...	...	...	1170
Entrants	...	...	...	...	200
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	486
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	484
Special Inspections	...	...	...	...	7
					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	1177
					<hr/>

Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections. No. of Defects.		Special Inspections. No. of Defects.	
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment	Requiring Treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment
Skin	1	1	—	—
Eyes: (a) Vision ...	50	14	—	1
(b) Squint ...	4	—	—	—
(c) Other ...	—	—	—	—
Ears: (a) Hearing ...	—	—	—	—
(b) Otitis Media	—	—	—	—
(c) Other ...	1	—	—	—
Nose or Throat ...	27	24	5	1
Speech	—	1	—	—
Cervical Glands ...	—	6	—	—
Heart and Circulation ...	—	14	—	—
Lungs	4	5	—	—
DEVELOPMENT—				
(a) Hernia ...	—	—	—	—
(b) Other ...	—	—	—	—
ORTHOPAEDIC—				
(a) Posture ...	3	4	—	—
(b) Flat Foot ...	6	6	—	—
(c) Other ...	8	5	—	—
NERVOUS SYSTEM—				
(a) Epilepsy ...	—	—	—	—
(b) Other ...	—	—	—	—
PSYCHOLOGICAL—				
(a) Development...	—	6	—	—
(b) Stability ...	—	—	—	—
Other	1	—	—	—

TREATMENT RETURNS.

Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor Eye Disease treated as Minor Ailments).

Disease or Defect.	Under the Authority's		Total
	Scheme	Otherwise.	
Errors of Refraction	16	—	16
Other Defects or Disease of the Eyes ...	—	—	—
Total	16	—	16
No. of Pupils for whom Spectacles were:			
(a) Prescribed	12	—	12
(b) Obtained	12	—	12

Classification of the Nutrition of Pupils inspected during the year in the Routine Age Groups.

Age Groups.		A.		B.		C.	
		No. of Pupils inspected	Good.	Fair.	Poor.	No.	%
Entrants ... ..	...	200	23	158	19	79.0	7.5
Intermediates ... ..	...	486	54	417	15	85.8	3.09
Leavers ... ..	...	484	67	396	21	81.82	4.34
Total ... ..	...	1170	144	971	55	82.99	4.7

